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Rev.JOHN McKENZIE, minister of Suffolk Parish, Nansemond County, Virginia, died at Suffolk, Va.in 1754. His will was recorded in Nansemond County, Va.and a copy deposited with the Secretary of State of North Carolina, where he had bought land for his femily. This will is shown in full on pages 305-307 of "North Carolina Wills and Inventories" published, 1912, by the North Carolina State Library.

Rev.John McKenzie in his will of 1754 mentioned the following: Sons John, Kenneth, and William. Daughters Janet and Anne McKenzie. His executors were William Gray, brother-in-law, and Capt.John Hill, both of Bertie County, N.C., and James Pugh and Pasco Turner of Nansemond County, Va. Bond was given by these executors and by Josiah Riddick, Willis Riddick, and Daniel Pugh. The will was

witnessed by James Pugh, Jas. Wright, and Christian (her mark) Good.

Rev.John McKenzie(d.1754) married,1742, Janet Gray(1721-1753), daughter of John Gray(1690-1750) and Anne Bryan Gray(1698-1770), of Bertie County, N.C. Ancestry of John Gray not as yet found by me but his wife Anne Bryan was daughter of Lewis Bryan and Elizabeth (Hunter) Bryan of Surry County, Va. This Lewis Bryan was son of Lewis Bryan and grandson of Edward Bryan. Ancestry of Elizabeth Hunter not known to me.

I have nothing definite as to the ancestry of Rev.John McKenzie but he is thought to have been a son of Kenneth McKenzie and to have had a brother named George McKenzie. (So shown in my family book compiled by an aunt but of which I have no verification). In "The Colonial Church in Virginia", by Rev. William Cabell Brown, 1927, under a "List of the Colonial Clergy in Virginia from 1607 to 1785", on page 289 there is the following:

"McKensie, : Preached in Isle of Wight County about 1746. (Meade, I, 304).

Died as minister of Suffolk Parish, Nansemond County, about 1755 or 1754. (Perry, 432).

Mackenzey, Kennith: K.B. Va. * Sept. 12, 1711. Is this the same as

McKensie, above?

*King's Bounty to Virginia, i.e., received a bounty of twenty pounds

given by successive kings from 1800 onwards, though not regularly. ")

It will be noted that the Rev. William Cabell Brown did not know that the will of Rev. John McKenzie is available, as he was uncertain about the date and even about the first name.

In "Old Churches, Ministers, and Families of Virginia", by Bishop William Meade, 1857, we find in regard to the Smithfield church- p.304 - "In 1724, Alexander Forbes was minister. In 1729 Rev. John Gemmill was chosen minister and continued so until his death in 1744. After Mr. Gemmill's ministry the Rev. Mr. Camm occasionally officiated in this parish. Then the Rev. Mr. McKenzie preached nine sermons. In the year 1746 we find the Rev. John Reid present with the vestry; and he seems to have been the minister until 1755, when the record becomes defective."

In "Colonial Churches in the Original Colony of Virginia", pub. by the Southern Churchmen Company, Richmond, Va., 1908, we find on page 135: "Sometime about 1725 Chuckatuck and Lower Parish (of Nansemond county) were united to form one parish and called Suffolk Parish. (Strangely the town of Suffolk is not in Suffolk Parish but in the Upper Parish, of Nansemond County). In 1737 the vestry of Suffolk Parish built a new brick church to replace the old one." page 136. "The old vestry book of the parish begins with the year 1749, during the ministry of the Rev. John McKenzie. At his death in 1754 the Rev. John Agnew was chosen minister. In 1755 the present church at Unuckatuck was built, near the site of the ancient one. In 1758 the vestry of Suffolk Parish was dissolved by act of Assembly, on petition of the inhabitants of Lower Parish. The vestry held in trust for the Lower Parish valuable lands and a cash donation from Richard Bennett, Thomas Tilly, and Richard Bennett, Jr. "

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